

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA coding for a protein which comprises an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

2. (Previously Presented) An isolated DNA which comprises nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. (Currently Amended) A bacterium belonging to the genus ~~Escherichia~~ Escherichia, wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of the DNA as defined in claim 1.

4. (Previously Presented) The bacterium according to claim 3, wherein the DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

5. (Previously Presented) The bacterium according to claim 3, wherein the DNA is carried on a transposon.

6. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A bacterium belonging to the genus ~~Escherichia~~ Escherichia, wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of the DNA as defined in claim 2.

9. (Previously Presented) The bacterium according to claim 8, wherein the DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

10. (Previously Presented) The bacterium according to claim 8, wherein the DNA is carried on a transposon.

11. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the isolated DNA of Claim 1.

12. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the isolated DNA of Claim 2.

13. (Previously Presented) A bacterium comprising the vector of Claim 11.

14. (Previously Presented) A bacterium comprising the vector of Claim 12.

15. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA, ~~which comprises a nucleotide sequence that wherein said DNA~~ hybridizes under stringent conditions to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said DNA is not less than 70% homologous to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said DNA encodes a protein, which has an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-homoserine resistant.

16. (Currently Amended) A bacterium belonging to the genus ~~Escherichia~~ Escherichia, wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of the DNA as defined in claim 15.

17. (Previously Presented) The bacterium according to claim 16, wherein the DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

18. (Previously Presented) The bacterium according to claim 16, wherein the DNA is carried on a transposon.

19. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the isolated DNA of Claim 15.

20. (Previously Presented) A bacterium comprising the vector of Claim 19.

21. (New) An isolated DNA, wherein said DNA hybridizes under stringent conditions to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said DNA is not less than 70% homologous to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said DNA is derived from a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, and wherein said DNA encodes a protein, which has an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-homoserine resistant.

22. (New) A bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of the DNA as defined in claim 21.

23. (New) The bacterium according to claim 22, wherein the DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

24. (New) The bacterium according to claim 22, wherein the DNA is carried on a transposon.

25. (New) A vector comprising the isolated DNA of Claim 21.

26. (New) A bacterium comprising the vector of Claim 25.

27. (New) An isolated DNA encoding for a protein which comprises an amino acid sequence including deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of one amino acid in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, and which has an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-homoserine resistant.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 3, 8, 15, and 16 have been amended.

Claims 21-27 have been added.

The amendment of Claims 3, 8, and 16 serves to correct italicize the word "*Escherichia*". The amendment of Claim 15 is supported by the corresponding claim as previously presented. Support for Claims 21-27 is found in Claims 1-5 and the specification as originally filed.

No new matter is added by these amendments.